

Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.: ITW 12033

Remarks

The following remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed on September 18, 2001. Upon entrance of the amendments set out above, claims 1, 19, 26 and 32-62 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-10, and 19-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Acker. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acker. Claims 32-34 were allowed and Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing these claims.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has herein cancelled claims 2-10, 20-25 and 27-31 and the rejection of those claims should be withdrawn.

Acker teaches an engine generator assembly comprising an engine 10 and a generator 29. Engine 10 includes a lower engine housing 16 having a plurality of mounting bosses 22 and a pilot ring 24 extending downward from the engine housing. Generator 29 includes a rotor 36, a stator 40 and an upper generator housing 32. Upper generator housing 32 includes a plurality of holes (for receiving mounting bolts) and has a pilot ring 54 extending upward from the generator housing.

Concentric alignment of rotor 36 with stator 40 is achieved by engaging pilot ring 54 with pilot ring 24. Bosses 22 and bolts 46 are used to secure housings 16 and 32 together after concentric alignment is achieved.

Independent claims 1 and 19 each require that the stator be concentrically aligned with the rotor by contacting each of a plurality of pins with a surface of the generator housing. Similarly, claim 26 requires that the generator be located on the wall by contacting each of a plurality of pins with a surface of

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the generator housing. Acker simply does not teach or suggest aligning a stator with a rotor (or locating a generator with respect to an engine wall) by contacting a plurality of pins with the surface of a generator housing.

In response to Applicant's earlier arguments, the Office Action states:

the bosses and bolts of Acker are parts of the combination structure (a pilot ring, a shaft for carrying rotor, generator housing, bosses and bolts) **which serves for alignment the rotor with the stator**. Furthermore, the combination structure of Acker **cannot be alignment without the bosses and bolts**. Therefore, the bosses are **inherently served for alignment** the rotor with the stator.

Applicant respectfully submits that these statements are in error in that concentric alignment in Acker can be, and is, achieved without bosses 22 and bolts 46. Bosses 22 and bolts 46 do not, therefore, inherently serve to align the rotor with the stator. In fact, bosses 22 and bolts 46 do not themselves contribute anything to concentrically align the rotor with the stator.

The reasons for this are that bolts 46 and bosses 22 can be completely removed without affecting in anyway concentric alignment between rotor 36 and stator 40. This is because pilot ring 54 will continue to engage pilot ring 24 forcing rotor 36 into concentric alignment with stator 40 even in the absence of bosses 22 and bolts 46. Simply put, concentric alignment of the

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rotor with the stator using pilot rings 24 and 54 as taught by Acker occurs independent of bosses 22 and bolts 46 (see column 4, lines 25-61) and will occur even if bosses 22 and bolts 46 are absent.

Furthermore, if the contact between bosses 22 and generator housing 32 did provide for concentric alignment between rotor 36 and stator 40, there would be no need for pilot rings 24 and 54. However, Acker teaches that pilot rings 24 and 54 are required and further teaches that bosses 22 and bolts 46 are merely used to secure housings 16 and 32 together after concentric alignment is achieved using pilot rings 24 and 54.

For the reasons stated above, it is believed that claims 1, 19 and 26 are not anticipated by Acker and are allowable.

Applicant has also amended the claims to add new claims 35-62. New dependent claims 35-54 each depend from one of independent claims 32-34 which the Office Action indicated were allowed. Added dependent claims 35-54, each of which is fully supported by the disclosure in the specification, each add a limitation to one of allowed claims 32-34. Each of claims 35-54 is therefore narrower in scope than the allowed claim from which it depends and should also be allowed.

Added claims 55-62 each include an express limitation that was implicitly present in original claims 11-18, namely that the closed inner surface of a pilot hole is not a surface of the housing. This limitation necessarily follows from the definition of housing surface contained in the specification at page 12, lines 17-24. Applicant also believes that added claims 55-62 are allowable

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Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application should be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned below if it will aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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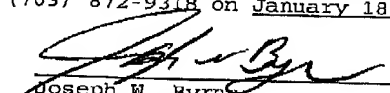
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Date: January 18, 2002



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